(Million Tonnes)

Date	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st April	10·8	3·7	14·5
1st July	9·2	13·1	22·3
1st Oct,	6·0	10·6	16·6
1st Jan,	7·7	7·7	15·4

The stock of foodgrains with public agencies as on 1-10-91, was of the order of 15.6 million tonnes, comprising 7.00 million tonnes of rice and 8.6 million tonnes of wheat. The shortage in the stock level of wheat is mainly attributable to lower precurement of wheat during 1991-92 marketing season and higher outgo from the Central Pool during the lean season (Dec., 1990 to April, 1991) last year.

(d) The present stocks of wheat and rice are considered to be sufficient to meet the reasonsable requirements of Public Distribution System.

(e) Does not orise.

Machine Stitching of Gunny Bags

1530. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the incentive rate for double line machine stitching of gunny bags for levy rice, non-levy rice and wheat, supplied to Food Corporation of India; if so the details thereof;

(b) what is the basis for the increase; and

(c) the quality of bags expected to be machine stitched in the current year for levy rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The rate of incentive payable to rice millers for delivery of levy rice for Central Pool to Food Corporation of India (FCI) in double line machine stitched BT gunny bags has been increased from 60 paise to 95 paise per bag of 95 Kg. filling effective from 1991-92 Kharif marketing season which commenced on 1st October, 1991. The rate for double line machine stitching of wheat bags is fixed by FCI and State procuring agencies by open tender subject to the ceiling rate of 70 paise per bag fixed by Government effective from 1st April 1989. Since the non-levy rice is not procured by FCI for Central Pool, no incentive rate for machine stitching of bags is required to be fixed therefor.

(b) Increase in the cost of machine stitching.

(c) In view of a large number of rice mills from whom levy-dice is collected; it is not practicable to fix any target for machine stitching of gunny bags containing rice procured.

New Sugar Factories in Gujarat

1531. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from Gujarat Government for changing the location for establishment of a new sugar factory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;